

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 TOKYO 08955 160903Z

ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 EPA-04 HEW-06 FEA-01 AID-05

CEQ-01 CIAE-00 ERDA-07 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07

INR-07 IO-14 L-03 NSF-02 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-04

USIA-15 SS-15 SP-02 INT-05 PA-02 PRS-01 /123 W

-----160911Z 088749 /14

R 160835Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8681

UNCLAS TOKYO 8955

FOR OES/ENP/EN

DEPT. PASS EPA AND DHEW/FDA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, JA

SUBJECT: DISPOSAL OF POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYLS (PCBS) IN JAPAN

REF: STATE 121594

1. JAPANESE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ASAHI EVENING NEWS REPORTED PLANS BY MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INDUSTRY (MITI) TO DISPOSE OF 6,600 TONS OF PCBS. THE PROPOSAL CALLS FOR DISPOSAL BY BURNING THE MATERIAL AT SEA IN AN INCINERATOR SHIP OPERATED BY THE OCEAN COMBUSTION SERVICE COMPANY OF HOLLAND.

2. THE PRESS REPORT GOES ON TO SAY THAT THE U.S. EPA HAS USED THIS METHOD FOR DISPOSAL BEFORE AND HAS APPROACHED THE GOJ TO OFFER COOPERATION IN THE DISPOSAL OF THE JAPANESE MATERIALS. THE STORY ALSO SAID THAT THERE WAS SOME POSSIBILITY THAT THE MATERIALS MIGHT BE SENT TO THE U.S. FOR TESTING.

3. EMBASSY DELIVERED LETTER CONTAINING INFO FROM REFTEL  
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TO MITI OFFICE IN CHARGE OF CHEMICAL PRODUCTS ON JUNE 3. IN A LATER TELCON WITH MITI, EMBOFF LEARNED THAT NEWS STORY ORIGINATED FROM INTERVIEW MITI OFFICIALS GAVE TO LOCAL PRESS IN HYOGO PREFECTURE WHERE PCB DISPOSAL IS MAJOR TOPIC OF CONCERN. REFERENCES TO EPA COOPERATION IN DISPOSAL OF JAPANESE PCBS WERE INTENDED TO ASSUAGE LOCAL FEARS

THAT DISPOSAL WOULD BE DANGEROUS IF LEFT TO  
INEXPERIENCED JAPANESE DISPOSAL COMPANIES.

4. DISPOSAL OF THESE PCBS IS STILL A PROBLEM FOR  
JAPAN AND CONTINUING DETERIORATION OF PRESENT  
STORAGE FACILITIES IS MAKING THE PROBLEM MORE ACUTE.  
DISPOSAL BY BURNING AT SEA MAY PROVE TO BE THE ANSWER  
MITI HAS SOUGHT TO THIS NATIONAL HEADACHE.  
MANSFIELD

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** LAW, FOOD & DRUG REGULATIONS, TOXINS & ANTITOXINS, CHEMICALS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 16-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977TOKYO08955  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770215-0087  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** TOKYO  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770648/aaaabpzz.tel  
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**Litigation Code IDs:**  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Message ID:** 4eb27c7b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION OES  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 STATE 121594  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 21-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2119450  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** DISPOSAL OF POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYLS (PCBS) IN JAPAN  
**TAGS:** SENV, ECEM, JA, US, OECD  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/4eb27c7b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009